

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13  
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /089 W  
-----126177 270309Z /63

R 261445Z MAY 78

FM FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2867

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 288

FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAY 22-28

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EASTERN REPS AT THE MAY 23 INFORMAL  
SESSION OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS RE-  
FRAINED FROM COMMENTING ON THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE  
OTHER THAN TO REITERATE THAT IT WAS STILL UNDER STUDY.

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END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST INFORMAL SESSION OF THE FIFTEENTH ROUND OF  
THE VIENNA TALKS TOOK PLACE ON MAY 23. WESTERN REPS  
EMPHASIZED THE FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT TO DEAL WITH  
EXISTING GROUND FORCE DISPARITIES IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH  
A MORE STABLE SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

AND UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES FOR WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA. THEY ALSO RESUMED THEIR EXAMINATION OF DISAGGREGATED EASTERN DATA WITH A SERIES OF FURTHER QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF EASTERN GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL BETWEEN THE TWO CATEGORIES OF MAJOR FORMATIONS AND OTHERS.

3. EASTERN REPS AT THE MAY 23 INFORMAL SESSION DREW ON QUOTATIONS FROM NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN PROCLAIMING EASTERN INTEREST IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT IN VIENNA, REVIEWED IN FAMILIAR TERMS THE EASTERN APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS AND CITED PREVIOUSLY EXCHANGED DATA IN ATTACKING THE WESTERN CLAIM OF A SIGNIFICANT MANPOWER SUPERIORITY FAVORING WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE AREA. THEY NOTED THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE DATA DISCUSSION AND THAT, IN THIS REGARD, THE WEST HAD NOT YET ACCEPTED THE EASTERN PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE DATA ON THE MANNING LEVELS OF THE FORCES OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. IN A BRIEF REFERENCE TO THE WEST'S APRIL 19 INITIATIVE, THEY SAID THAT EASTERN PARTICIPANTS WERE STILL STUDYING THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE CHANGES IN ITS POSITION INTRODUCED BY THE WEST AT THE END OF THE LAST ROUND MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO MOVING THE TALKS FORWARD. DURING THE REGULAR  
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POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING ON MAY 24, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT IT WAS QUOTE IMPOSSIBLE UNQUOTE TO GIVE A SPECIFIC DATE WHEN ASKED BY A REUTERS CORRESPONDENT WHEN ONE COULD EXPECT AN EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE LATEST WESTERN PROPOSALS.

4. UK REP BOLLAND DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE MAY 24 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION CONCENTRATED ON THAT PART OF THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE WHICH CONCERNS COMMITMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN SECOND PHASE REDUCTIONS.

5. ON MAY 22, THE AD HOC GROUP APPROVED A REPORT TO THE NAC ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT MEETING. THE REPORT MENTIONED GDR REP OESER'S MAY 18 PLENARY STATEMENT AS AN EXAMPLE OF EASTERN EFFORTS TO DOWNPLAY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NEW WESTERN PROPOSALS PENDING A FORMAL EASTERN REPLY TO THEM. DESPITE OF THIS EASTERN TACTIC, THE REPORT CONCLUDED THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW INITIATIVE AND THE RECENT

EXCHANGE OF ADDITIONAL MILITARY MANPOWER DATA HAD  
STRENGTHENED THE WESTERN POSITION IN THE TALKS  
BY, RESPECTIVELY, PLACING THE ONUS ON THE EAST TO  
MOVE TOWARDS THE WESTERN POSITION AND EXPANDING THE  
BASIS FOR PRESSING THE WESTERN INVESTIGATION OF THE  
SOURCES OF EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES OVER DATA. RESOR

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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